

REMARKS

Claims 10-15 and 26-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 31 and 32 have been newly added herewith.

Claim Rejections

A) Claims 10, 26 and 28

Claims 10, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by newly applied Martin (U.S. Patent No. 4,886,305). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 10 recites a duplex pipe and a joint for a duplex pipe. The joint has a main body with first and second passages for the outer pipe and the inner pipe, respectively. Each of the passages has a proximal receiving end and a distal opening. Also, the openings are longitudinally displaced from one another and the inner pipe crosses the first passage.

For example, the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 16 of the present application shows first and second passages 640, 650 with receiving ends (at 610 and 620) proximal to the pipes and openings 641, 651 distal to the pipes. The openings 641 and 651 are longitudinally displaced from one another. Also, the exposed portion of the inner pipe crosses the first passage 640. Because the openings are longitudinally spaced, the fluids from the duplex pipe can be separately transferred to different locations. That is, two fluids travel along concentric paths in the duplex pipe, but are separated from the concentric paths at the joint, and particularly, the openings.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Martin does not teach distal openings which are longitudinally spaced from one another. Instead, Martin includes only a concentric design in which the alleged joint main body merely connects one set of concentric pipes with another.

Even if Martin did teach two separate passages with proximal and distal ends, openings at the distal ends would be concentric, they would not be longitudinally displaced. Furthermore, the claimed inner pipe crosses the first passage. Since Martin teaches a concentric design, the inner pipe cannot cross a first passage as claimed at least because the inner route in Martin always stays within the outer route.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 10 is allowable over Martin. Claims 26 and 28 depend from claim 10 and are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

B) Claims 11-13, 15, 27, 29 and 30

Claims 11-13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of O'Laughlin (U.S. Patent No. 1,986,010). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants submit that claim 11 is allowable at least for reasons similar to claim 10. O'Laughlin is cited only as teaching a soldering or brazing ring and would not correct the deficiencies of Martin. Claims 12, 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 depend from claim 11 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 31 and 32. Claim 31 depends from claim 10 and claim 32 depends from claim 11. Claims 31 and 32 are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/798,359
Attorney Docket No.: Q80302

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

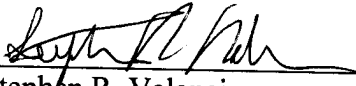
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1. Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

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